

**Standards Focus: Literary Response and Analysis****Chapter XI-Epilogue**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American poet and essayist, wrote, "We read often with as much talent as we write."

**Directions:** As you read the following passages, respond to the quotations by writing your thoughts and feelings about these sentences from the novel. Respond, question, make personal connections, evaluate, reflect, analyze or interpret. What do these words tell you about the time, the characters, the conflicts, and the lessons to be learned from reading the novel? Be careful that you don't just explain the meaning of the sentences. Follow your teacher's instructions for setting up your literary response.

Words from the text	Your thoughts about the words from the text
1. [Sam] grinned. "Do I look different?" ... "No older." she said. "You've gotten older." "Tim has too. I hardly recognized him." "He's had to grow up fast," Mother said. "He didn't have much choice." (pg. 159)	
2. It felt good to be part of [doing something important,] and I knew that was the real reason why he [Sam] didn't want to come home. Knowing that about Sam gave me a funny feeling. I didn't feel like his little brother so much anymore, I felt more like his equal.(pg. 163)	
3. I didn't know what to think. I didn't see how they could find Sam guilty—he'd fought for three years, he'd risked his life, how could they decide to punish him for something he hadn't done? It just didn't make sense. (pg. 190)	
4. Father said, "In war the dead pay the debts for the living," and they have paid us well. But somehow, even fifty years later, I keep thinking that there might have been another way, beside war, to achieve the same end. (pg. 211)	